5   a plurality of personal computers, one for each of the users, at least one of said personal computers [using] having multi-tasking processing means[, the one of said personal computers using the multi-taking processing means] for coordinating the execution of file editing operations of

10   [by] the users through said respective personal computers [of the file to be edited] by said one personal computer and the transfer of data corresponding with said file editing operations from said one personal computer to the remaining personal computers whereby said file editing operations and

15   said data transfer are performed in a predetermined manner by said one personal computer; and

      interconnecting means for electrically interconnecting said one personal computer with said remaining personal computers to permit transmission of electrical signals

20   therebetween.

      2.   (amended) An interactive editing system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

      a plurality of voice communication means, [one associated with each of said] in one to one correspondence

5   with said plurality of personal computers, for [enabling voice communication between the users] transmitting audio signals representative of any user's voice to each other user.

      3.   (amended) An interactive editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital communications system [and said personal computers communicate] for transferring said data digitally

5   [over the non-dedicated digital communications system] between said one personal computer and said remaining personal computers.

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4. (amended) An interactive editing system according to Claim 2, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital network, [and the non-dedicated digital network links both said personal computers and] <u>comprising</u>

5   said voice communication means <u>and means for contemporaneously transferring said data between said one personal computer and said remaining personal computers and transmitting said audio signals among the users</u>.

5. (amended) An interactive editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means comprises <u>a plurality of</u> modems [associated with]<u>, each having digital-to-analog conversion means and analog-to-digital conversion</u>

5   <u>means and</u> each <u>electrically interconnected between one</u> of said personal computers[,] and an analog communications [link] <u>network, said analog communications network operable for transferring said data between said one personal computer and said remaining personal computers</u>; and

10   wherein each of said personal computers includes data compression/decompression means [so that] <u>for compressing said</u> data to be [communicated between said personal computers is compressed] <u>transferred</u> before [being] <u>said data is</u> sent over the analog communications [link] <u>network</u>

15   and [decompressed] <u>for decompressing said data</u> when received from the analog communications [link] <u>network</u>.

7. (amended) An interactive editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means comprises <u>a plurality of</u> modems [associated with]<u>, each having digital-to-analog conversion means and analog-to-digital conversion</u>

5   <u>means and</u> each <u>electrically interconnected between one</u> of said personal computers[,] and an analog communications [link] <u>network, said analog communications network operable</u>

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for transferring said data between said one personal computer and said remaining personal computers; and

10   wherein each of [the] said modems includes data compression/decompression means [so that] for compressing said data to be [communicated between said personal computers is compressed] transferred before [being] said data is sent over the analog communications [link] network

15   and [decompressed] for decompressing said data when received from the analog communications [link] network.

8.   (amended) An interactive editing system according to Claim 1, [wherein said interconnecting means comprises] further comprising:

a plurality of modems [associated with], each having

5   digital-to-analog conversion means and analog-to-digital conversion means and each electrically interconnected between one of said personal computers[,] and an analog communications [link] network, said analog communications network operable for transferring said data between said one

10   personal computer and said remaining personal computers; and

[wherein either each of said personal computers or the modems associated with each of said personal computers include] data compression/decompression means [so that] for compressing said data to be [communicated between said personal computers is compressed] transferred before [being]

15   said data is sent over the analog communications [link] network and [decompressed] for decompressing the data when received from the analog communications [link] network.

9. (amended)   A   system   for   [substantially simultaneously] <u>contemporaneously</u> editing a file by any of a plurality of users, comprising:

a plurality of personal computers, one for each of the
5   users, each of said personal computers including means for inputting <u>file editing operations into said personal computer</u> and means for displaying <u>data from said personal computer, at least one of said personal computers having means for coordinating the execution of file editing</u>
10   <u>operations from any of said input means to said one personal computer and the transfer of data corresponding with said file editing operations from said one personal computer to the remaining personal computers</u>; and

interconnecting means for <u>electrically</u> interconnecting
15   <u>said one personal computer with</u> said <u>remaining</u> personal computers[,] <u>to permit transmission of electrical signals therebetween;</u>

wherein said <u>one</u> personal computer[s include means for coordinating] <u>performs the editing operations</u> input [to]
20   <u>from</u> any of the input means <u>and said data transfer in a predetermined manner</u> so that the file can be [substantially simultaneously] edited from any of said personal computers <u>and the edits can be contemporaneously displayed on said display means</u>.

10. (amended)   A   system   for   [substantially simultaneously] <u>contemporaneously</u> editing a file according to Claim 9, wherein the coordinating means is [linked to] <u>operatively interconnected with</u> the input means and display
5   means   of   each   of   said <u>remaining</u> personal computers [utilizing] <u>through</u> said interconnecting means[,] and [the coordinating] <u>comprises</u> means <u>for</u> sequentially [polls] <u>polling</u> the input from each of the input means, [performs]

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means for executing any [requested] editing operation on the file  input by a user, and [sends] means for sending said data from said one personal computer [indicative of the requested operation] to all of the display means as the input operation is carried out.

11. (amended) A system for [substantially simultaneously] contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, further comprising:

a plurality of voice communication means, [one associated with each of said] in one to one correspondence with said plurality of personal computers, for [enabling voice communication between the users] transmitting audio signals representative of any user's voice to each other user.

12. (amended) A system for [substantially simultaneously] contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital communications system [and said personal computers communicate] for transferring said data digitally [over the non-dedicated digital communications system] between said one personal computer and said remaining personal computers.

13. (amended) A system for [substantially simultaneously] contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 11, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital network, [and the non-dedicated digital network links both said personal computers and] comprising said voice communication means and means for contemporaneously transferring said data between said one personal computer and said remaining personal computers and transmitting said audio signals among the users.

14.   (amended)   A   system   for   [substantially simultaneously] <u>contemporaneously</u>   editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein<u>:</u>

said interconnecting means comprises<u>:</u>

5   <u>a plurality of converting</u> means<u>, each electrically</u> <u>interconnected   with   one   of   said   personal   computers,</u> for converting digital signals <u>from   each   of   said   personal</u> <u>computers</u> to analog signals and <u>converting</u> analog signals to digital signals [associated   with   each   of   said   personal

10   computers], and

an   analog   communications   [link   for   connecting] <u>network   for   interconnecting</u>   the   <u>plurality   of</u>   converting means   <u>and   transferring   said   analog   signals   to/from   the</u> <u>converting   means</u>, and

15   [wherein]   each   of   said   personal   computers   <u>further</u> includes data compression/decompression means [so that] <u>for</u> <u>compressing</u> data to be [communicated between said personal computers   is   compressed]   <u>transferred</u>   before   [being]   <u>said</u> <u>data   is</u> sent over the analog communications [link] <u>network</u>

20   and [decompressed] <u>for decompressing said data</u> when received from the analog communications [link] <u>network</u>.

15.   (amended)   A   system   for   [substantially simultaneously] <u>contemporaneously</u>   editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein<u>:</u>

<u>a   first   plurality   of</u>   said   personal   computers   are

5   [grouped] <u>interconnected</u> in a [plurality of] <u>first</u> local area [networks] <u>network and at least a second plurality of</u> <u>said personal computers are interconnected in at least a</u> <u>second local area network;</u> and

said interconnecting means includes [bridges] <u>means</u> for

10   <u>interconnecting said first local area network with said at</u> <u>least second local area network for</u> allowing [communication

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between] transfer of said data to/from said personal computers on [different ones of the] said first and said at least second local area networks.

16. (amended) A system for [substantially simultaneously] contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein:

said interconnecting means comprises:

a plurality of converting means, each electrically interconnected with one of said personal computers, for converting digital signals from said personal computers to analog signals and converting analog signals to digital signals [associated with each of said personal computers], and

an analog communications [link for connecting] network for interconnecting the plurality of converting means and transferring said analog signals to/from the converting means, and

[wherein] each of said personal computers further includes data compression/decompression means [so that] for compressing said data to be [communicated between said personal computers is compressed] transferred before [being] said data is sent over the analog communications [link] network and [decompressed] for decompressing said data when received from the analog communications [link] network.

17. (amended) A system for [substantially simultaneously] contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein the coordinating means [can lock out any of the users so that the input by a locked-out user will not be considered by the coordinating means] includes means for excluding from the sequential polling input from at least one selected input means.

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18.   (amended)   A   method   for   [substantially simultaneously] contemporaneously editing a file from any of a plurality of personal computers situated at remote locations, at least one of which has multi-tasking
5 capabilities, comprising the steps of:

electrically interconnecting the at least one personal computer having multi-tasking capabilities with the remaining personal computers over a communications [link] network; [and]

10   inputting   editing   instructions   into   a   personal computer;

[processing the file under control of the one of the personal computers having the multi-tasking capabilities according to instructions input from any of the personal
15 computers] receiving, at the one personal computer, the input editing instructions;

editing the file in accordance with the instructions; and

transferring data corresponding with the file editing
20 instructions from the one computer to the remaining personal computers over the communications network.

19.   (amended)   A   method   for   [substantially simultaneously] contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 18 further comprising[, prior to said interconnecting step,] the step of establishing voice
5 communications [between] over a telephone network among users [at] of each of the personal computers.

20.   (amended)   A   method   for   [substantially simultaneously] contemporaneously editing a file according to claim 18, wherein the communications [link] network is a non-dedicated digital network.

21.   (amended) A method for [substantially simultaneously] contemporaneously editing a file according to claim 18, wherein the communications [link] network includes:

5   a plurality of converting means, each electrically interconnected with one of the personal computers for converting digital signals from said personal computers to analog signals and converting analog signals to digital signals [associated with each of the personal computers]; and

10   and

an analog communications [system] network for [connecting] interconnecting the plurality of converting means and transferring the analog signals to/from the converting means.

22.   (amended) A method for [substantially simultaneously] contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 19, wherein the [personal computers are interconnected and the voice communications are established

5   over the same communications link] communications network and the telephone network comprise the same network capable of contemporaneous transmission of data and voice signals.

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23.   (amended) An interactive editing system for a plurality of users at respective remote locations for permitting any of the users to input, by voice communications means, file editing instructions pertaining to [edit] a file to be edited and for permitting contemporaneous viewing of the editing by all of the users, comprising:

voice communication means, in one-to-one correspondence with the users, for transmitting audio signals representative of any user's voice to each of the remaining users;

a personal computer [using], having multi-tasking processing means, for use by one of the users to execute the editing instructions input by the users;

a plurality of remote terminals, one for use by each of the remaining users and each having a display; and

interconnecting means for electrically interconnecting said personal computer with each of said remote terminals and transferring data corresponding with the file editing instructions between said personal computer and said remote terminals for contemporaneous viewing by the users on each display[,

wherein said personal computer coordinates editing by the users through said personal computer and said respective remote terminals of the file to be edited].

25.   (amended) An interactive editing system according to Claim 23, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital communications system [and said personal computer and said remote terminals communicate] for transferring said data digitally [over the non-dedicated digital communications system] between said personal computer and said remote terminals.

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26. (amended) An interactive editing system according to Claim 23, wherein:

said interconnecting means comprises <u>a plurality of modems,</u> [associated with] each [of] <u>having digital-to-analog</u>

5 <u>conversion means and analog-to-digital conversion means, one of said modems electrically interconnected between</u> said personal computer and <u>an analog communications network and each of the remaining modems electrically interconnected between a corresponding one of</u> said remote terminals and

10 [an] <u>said</u> analog communications [link] <u>network, said analog communications network operable for transferring said data between said personal computer and said remote terminals,</u> and

[wherein] each of [the] <u>said</u> modems includes data

15 compression/decompression means [so that] <u>for compressing said</u> data to be [communicated] <u>transferred</u> between said personal computer and said remote terminals [is compressed] before [being] <u>said data is</u> sent over the analog communications [link] <u>network</u> and decompressed when received

20 from the analog communications [link] <u>network</u>.